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ABSTRACT

The works of 75 novelists, 14 dramatists, 16 short story writers, and 20 poets are included in this partially annotated bibliography based on available materials. Most entries consist of the author's name, the title of the work, and the date of publication. (SW)

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SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY ON AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE (300 YEARS)

ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY BY GENRE

AND

PARTIALLY ANNOTATED

Note: This bibliography has been in preparation for approximately three years. Annotations are, for the most part, based upon available copies of materials. Although a number of lists already are available, they do not serve well the purpose of developing integrated themes in American Literature.

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AFRO-AMERICAN NOVELISTS

- Brown, William Wells
Clotel (1853) The first published novel by an Afro-American, this is a narrative of slave life in the United States.
- Webb, Frank J.
The Garies and Their Friends (1857)
- Bond, James H.W.
Bond and Free (1886)
- Harper, Frances Ellen Watkins
Lola Leroy (1892) Significant for its attempt to combat stereotypes created by white authors of the time
- "Sanda" (Walter H. Stowers and William H. Anderson)
Appointed (1894)
- Jones, J. McHenry
Hearts of Gold (1896)
- Dunbar, Paul Lawrence
The Uncalled
The Love of Landry
The Fanatics
The Sport of the Gods
Dunbar, remembered primarily for his poetry and short stories, wrote generally poor novels.
- Griggs, Sutton E.
Imperium in Imperio (1899)
Besides opposing miscegenation, oppression, and Jim Crow-ism, this novel attacks exploitation of the Negro and espouses a protective agency for Negro interests.
Overshadowed (1901)
Unfettered (1902)
The Hindered Hand (1905)
Pointing the Way (1908)
- Chesnutt, Charles W.
The House Behind the Cedars (1900) - Deals with the tragic mulatto
The Marrow of Tradition (1901) - Retaliation of Blacks against brutality
The Colonel's Dream (1905) - Southern post-war reform
- Hopkins, Pauline E.
Contending Forces (1900) Writes of Boston middle class families
- Grant, J.W.
Out of the Darkness (1909)
- Walker, Thomas H.B.
Bebbly (1910)
- Waring, Robert L.
As We See It (1910) Belittles poor Southern whites and is complimentary to the aristocrat and the progressive Black

DuBois, W.E.B.

The Quest of the Silver Fleece (1911) A sociological novel,
apparently influenced by Frank Norris (Octopus and the Pit)

Dark Princess (1928)

The Black Flame Trilogy:

Ordeal of Mansart (1957)

Mansart Builds a School (1959)

Worlds of Color (1961)

Johnson, James Weldon

Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man (1912)

Jones, York

The Climbers: A Story of Sun-Kissed Sweethearts

Michaux, Oscar

The Conquest: The Story of a Negro Pioneer (1913) First novel
dealing with a Negro pioneer

The Forged Note (1915)

The Homesteader (1917)

The Case of Mrs. Wingate (1945)

The Story of Dorothy Stanfield (1946)

Ashby, William M.

Redder Blood (1915)

Gilmore, F. Grant

The Problem: A Military Novel (1915) Extols the virtues of the
Black soldier in the Spanish American War

Shackleford, Otis M.,

Lillian Simmons (1915) Treats interracial strife resulting from
Black migration to the North

Downing, Henry F.

The American Cavalrymen (1917)

Fleming, Sarah Lee Brown

Hope's Highway (1918)

Dreer, Herman,

The Immediate Jewel of His Soul (1919) Reveals the new militance
of the Black American

Schuyler, George

Slaves Today (1931)

Black No More (1931) Satirizes attitudes of Blacks and whites

Cullen, Countee

One Way to Heaven (1932) Satirizes upper class life in Harlem

Hill, John H.

Princess Malah (1933)

Hurston, Zora Neale

Jonah's Gourd Vine (1934)

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)

Seraph on the Suwanee (1948)

Henderson, George Wylie

Ollie Miss (1935)

Julie (1946)

Lee, George W.

River George (1937)

Gilbert, Mercedes

Aunt Sarah's Wooden God (1938)

Turpin, Waters Edward

These Low Grounds (1937)

O Canaan (1939)

The Rootless (1957)

Dr. Turpin's special appeal was as a chronicler of Black families in Maryland.

Attaway, William

Let Me Breathe Thunder (1939)

Blood on the Forge (1941) Treats problems of the migrant worker

Wright, Richard

Native Son (1940) One of the most important and influential works
by an Afro-American

The Outsider (1953)

The Long Dream (1958)

Lawd Today (1903)

Savage Holiday (1954) Published posthumously

Offord, C.R.

The White Face (1943)

Himes, Chester B.

If He Hollers, Let Him Go (1945)

Lonely Crusade (1947)

Cast the First Stone (1952)

Lucas, Curtis

Third Ward Newark (1946)

Toomer, Jean

Cane (1923) A potpourri of stories, sketches, poetry, and drama,
Cane is one of the most significant productions of the
Black Renaissance and in heralding a new era in contemporary American literature.

Dorsey, John T.

The Lion of Judah (1924)

Fauset, Jessie

There Is Confusion (1924) First nationally recognized novel by
a Black woman

Plum Bun (1929)

The Chinaberry Tree (1931)

Comedy: American Style (1933)

Jones, Joshua Henry

By Sanction of Law (1924)

White, Walter

The Fire in the Flint (1924)

Flight (1926)

Van Vechten, Carl

Nigger Heaven (1926) A major influence on contemporary writers

Larsen, Nella

Quicksand (1928)

Passing (1929)

Fisher, Rudolph

The Walls of Jericho (1928)

The Conjure-Man Dies (1932) First full-length detective novel by
a Black writer

McKay Claude

Home to Harlem (1928)

Banjo

Banana Bottom (1933)

Thurman, Wallace

The Blacker the Berry (1929)

Infants of the Spring (1932)

Paynter, John H.

Fugitives of the Pearl (1930) Early attempt at historical fiction

Bontemps, Arna

God Sends Sunday (1931)

Black Thunder (1936) The Prosser slave revolt in Virginia in 1800

Drums of Dusk (1939)

Hughes, Langston

Not Without Laughter (1930) Depicts life in a small Mid-Western town

Petry, Ann

The Street (1946)

Country Place (1947)

The Narrows (1953)

Yerby, Frank

The Foxes of Harrow (1946)
The Vixens (1947)
The Golden Hawk (1948)
Pride's Castle (1949)
Floodtide (1950)
A Woman Called Fancy (1951)
The Saracen's Blade (1952)
Devil's Laughter (1953)
Benton's Row (1954)
Treasure of Pleasant Valley (1955)
Captain Rebel (1950)
Fairoaks (1957)
Serpent and the Staff (1958)
Gullican (1960)
Garfield Honor (1961)
Griffin's Way (1962)
Old Guards Laugh (1964)
Odor of Sanctity (1965)
Judas, My Brother (1968)

Bland, Alden

Behold a Cry (1947)

Motley, Willard

Knock on Any Door (1947)
We Fished All Night (1951)

Thomas, Will

God Is for White Folks (1947)

Smith, William Gardner

Last of the Conquerors (1948)
Anger at Innocence (1950)

West, Dorothy

The Living Is Easy (1948)

Savoy, Willard

Alien Land (1949)

Demby, William

Beetlecreek (1950)
The Catacombs (1965)

Kaye, Phillip B.

Taffy (1950)

Redding, J. Saunders

Stranger and Alone (1950)

Brown, Floyd

Iron City (1951)

Dodson, Owen

Boy at the Window (1951)

Dickens, Dorothy Lee

Black on the Rainbow (1952)

Ellison, Ralph

Invisible Man (1952) In 1965, a Book Week poll of authors, editors and critics judged this book to be the most distinguished single work published in America since 1945.

Brooks, Gwendolyn

Maud Martha (1953)

Baldwin, James

Go Tell It on the Mountain (1953)

Giovanni's Room (1956)

Another Country (1963)

Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone (1968)

Killens, James Oliver

Youngblood (1954)

And Then We Heard Thunder (1963)

Mayfield, Julian

The Hit (1957)

The Long Night (1958)

The Ground Parade (1961)

Marshall, Paule

Brown Girl, Brownstones (1959)

Brown, Franklin

Trumbull Park (1959)

Williams, John A.

The Angry Ones (1960)

Night Song (1961)

Sissie (1963)

The Man Who Cried I Am (1967)

Kelley, William Melvin

A Different Drummer (1962)

A Drop of Patience (1965)

Dem (1967)

Wright, Charles

The Messenger (1963)

Gaines, Ernest J.

Catherine Carmier (1964)

Of Love and Dust (1967)

Jones, LeRoi

System of Dante's Hell (1967)

AFRO-AMERICAN DRAMATISTS

Hughes, Langston

Mulatto 9 (1931)

Simply Heavenly (1957)

Jerico-Jim Crow (1954)

Tambourines to Glory (1958)

Wright, Richard (with Paul Green)

Native Son: Biography of a Young American (1941)

Hansberry, Lorraine

Raisin in the Sun (1959)

Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window (1964)

Davis, Ossie

Purlie Victorious (1961)

Kennedy, Adrienne

Funnyhouse of a Negro (1962) Obie Award

The Owl Answers (1963)

Lesson in the Dead Language (1964)

The Rat's Mass (1965)

Baldwin, James

Blues for Mr. Charlie (1964)

Amen Corner (1965)

Mackey, William Wellington

Behold! Cometh the
Vanderkellians (1965)

Burgie, Irving and Lofton Mitchell

Requiem for Brother X,
A Homage to Malcolm X
(1968)

Ballad for Bimshire (1963)

Mitchell, Lofton

Land Beyond the River (1963)

Jones, LeRoi

Dutchman and the Slave (1964)

Baptism and The Toilet (1964)

Slave Ship (1967)

Ward, Douglas Turner

Day of Absence (1965)

Happy Ending (1965)

Miller, Ronald

Who's Got His Own (1966)

Bullins, Ed

The Electronic Nigger and Other Plays (1968)
In New England Winter (1968)

McIver, Ray

God Is a (Guess What?) (1968)

Shine, Ted

Contribution (1969)

AFRO-AMERICAN SHORT STORY WRITERS

Harper, Frances E.W.

"The Two Offers" (1859) Probably the first short story published
by an Afro-American

Chesnutt, Charles W.

The Conjure Woman -- A collection of seven folk tales, published in
1899. However, the initial story had appeared in The Atlantic
Monthly in 1887.

The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line (1899)

Dunbar, Paul Lawrence

Folks from Dixie (1898)
The Strength of Gideon and Other Stories (1900)
In Old Plantation Days (1903)
The Heart of Happy Hollow (1904)
Best Stories (1938)

McClellan, George Marion

Old Greenbottom Inn

Pickens, William

The Vengeance of the Gods (1922)

Walrond, Eric

Tropic Death (1926)

McKay, Claude

Gingertown (1932)

Fisher, Rudolph (1897-1934)

No collection

Hughes, Langston

The Ways of White Folks (1934)
Simple Speaks His Mind (1950)
Simple Takes A Wife (1953)
Simple Stakes a Claim (1957)
Laughing to Keep from Crying (1952)
Simple's Uncle Sam (1965)
The Best of Simple (1961)
Something in Common and Other Stories (1963)

Wright, Richard

Uncle Tom's Children (1938)

Eight Men (1961)

Ellison, Ralph

No collection

Murray, Albert

No collection

Baldwin, James

Going to Meet the Man (1966)

Marshall, Paule

Soul Clap Hands and Sing (1961)

Gaines, Ernest J.,

Bloodline (1968)

Kelly, William Melvin

Dancers on the Shore

AFRO-AMERICAN POETS

Hammon, Jupiter (c. 1720 - ?)

Among Hammon's works is "An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ with Penitential Cries," published in 1760. This eighty-eight line poem is believed to be the first published by a Negro.

Wheatley, Phyllis (c. 1754-1784)

Miss Wheatley's first published work in 1770 was "An Elegiac Poem on the Death of George Whitefield."

Horton, George Moses (1797-c.1880)

Hope of Liberty and Naked Genius are the two extant volumes of his poetry.

Harper, Frances E.W. (1825-?)

Her first volume of poems was Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects, 1854.

Whitman, Albery A. (1851-?)

"Not a Man, Yet a Man," his first long poem, was published in 1877.

Johnson, James Weldon (1871-1938)

Fifty Years and Other Poems (1917)

God'n Trombones (1927) The play "Amen Corner" is an adaptation of this work

St. Peter Relates an Incident of the Resurrection Day (1930)

Dunbar, Paul Lawrence (1872-1936)

Oak and Ivy (1893)

Majors and Minors (1895)

Lyrics of Lowly Life (1896) This volume, with an introduction by William Dean Howells, established Dunbar's popularity.

Lyrics of the Hearthside (1899)

Lyrics of Love and Laughter (1903)

Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow (1905)

Complete Poems of Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1940)

Little Brown Baby (1940) This is an excellent collection of poems for young children.

McKay, Claude (1890-1948)

Constab Ballads (1912)

Songs from Jamaica (1912)

Spring in New Hampshire (1920)

Harlem Shadows (1922)

Tolson, Melvin B. (1900-1966)

Rendezvous with America (1944)

Harlem Gallery (1965)

Evans, Mari (19__ -)

Where Is All the Music? (1968)

Brown, Sterling (1901-)

Southern Road (1932)

Hughes, Langston (1902-1967)

The Weary Blues (1926)

Fine Clothes to the Jew (1927)

Dear Lovely Death (1931)

The Dream Keeper (1932)

Shakespeare in Harlem (1942)

Fields of Wonder (1947)

One-Way Ticket (1949)

The Panther and the Lash (1967)

Bontemps, Arna (1902-1963)

Personal

Cullen, Countee (1903-1946)

Color (1925)

Copper Sun (1927)

The Ballad of the Brown Girl (1927)

The Media and Other Poems (1935)

The Lost Zoo (1940)

My Nine Lives and How I Lost Them (1942)

Hayden, Robert E. (1913-)

A Ballad of Remembrance (1932)

Heart-Shape in the Dust (1940)

The Lion and the Archer (1948)

Selected Poems (1966)

Randall, Dudley (1914-)

Cities Burning (1968)

Walker, Margaret A. (1915-)

"For My People" (1942)

Brooks, Gwendolyn (1917-)

A Street in Bronzeville (1945)

Annie Allen (1949) Won 1950 Pulitzer Prize

Bronzeville Boys and Girls (1946)

The Bean Eaters (1960)

Selected Poems (1963)

Emanuel, James (1921-)

The Treehouse and Other Poems (1963)

Jones, LeRoi (1934-)

Preface to a Twenty-Volume Suicide Note (1961)

The Dead Lecturer (1964)

Black Art (1966) (Mimeograph)